

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION**

MULHOLLAND ENERGY SERVICES, LLC	§	
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
v.	§	CASE NO. SA-24-CA-00093-XR
	§	
	§	
KLAUS, INC.	§	
	§	
Defendant/Third-Party Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
v.	§	
	§	
ENBRIDGE STORAGE (CUSHING) LLC; and CLERMONT INNOVATIVE DESIGN LLC,	§	
	§	
Third-Party Defendants.	§	

**DEFENDANT/THIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF KLAUS, INC.’S
SECOND AMENDED THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT AGAINST ENBRIDGE STORAGE
(CUSHING) LLC AND CLERMONT INNOVATIVE DESIGN, LLC**

COMES NOW Defendant and Third-Party Plaintiff Klaus, Inc., (“**Klaus**”), by and through its counsel of record, and for its second amended third-party complaint against third-party defendants Enbridge Storage (Cushing) LLC (“**Enbridge**”) and Clermont Innovative Design, L.L.C. (“**Clermont Innovative**”), alleges and states as follows:

1. Third-Party Plaintiff Klaus is an Oklahoma company, with its principal place of business in Cushing, Oklahoma and is a resident of Oklahoma.

2. Third-Party Defendant Enbridge is a Delaware limited liability company, who may be served through its registered agent, the CT Corporation System, 1833 South Morgan Road, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73128, who owns real property at 2101 S. Linwood Avenue, Cushing, Oklahoma (the “**Cushing Facility**”) and is a resident of Oklahoma.

3. Third-Party Defendant Clermont Innovative Design, L.L.C is an Oklahoma limited liability company that can be served via Travis W. Mechan, 1704 N 12th Street, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74012, and is a resident of Oklahoma.

4. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this amended third-party complaint, the parties hereto, and venue is proper.

5. Klaus specializes in oilfield electrical installation and maintenance and is the only electrical installation company certified to do work at the Cushing Facility.

6. In October 2021, John Yuran (“**Yuran**”) with Cleveland Integrity Services (“**Cleveland Integrity**”) contacted Klaus concerning a large project at the Cushing Facility. Mr. Yuran informed Klaus that if it was interested in the job, Klaus should submit a bid between \$850,000-\$950,000. Yuran subsequently served as the Chief Inspector on the project at the Cushing Facility.

7. Klaus submitted a bid to Pilgrim Construction, LLC (“**Pilgrim**”, the contractor on the Cushing Facility project) for the electrical and instrumentation portion of the M 202 and 206 project at the Cushing Facility in an amount of \$875,000 and was eventually awarded the job.

8. On December 14, 2021, Klaus and Pilgrim executed a *Subcontract Agreement* for Klaus to complete the electrical and instrumentation scope of work for the M 202 N. Utilization and M223 Connectivity according to the plans and specifications provided by Enbridge Pipelines, Inc. (“**Cushing Facility Project**”).

9. Lane Frantz (“**Frantz**”) with Clermont Innovative was the Project Manager for the Cushing Facility Project. As the Project Manager, Frantz oversaw the entire Cushing Facility Project and worked closely with Yuran, the Chief Inspector, to insure completion. Although employed by Clermont, Frantz emailed from an “@enbridge.com” email address.

10. In his role as Project Manager, Frantz was responsible for the pre-job meetings, outlining the scope of work and span of the Cushing Facility Project.

11. Frantz issued the project orders that were sent down the chain to Klaus *via* Yuran and others.

12. Although Klaus was scheduled to commence work at the Cushing Facility Project on February 12, 2022, its start was delayed due to various oversights on behalf of Pilgrim and Enbridge.

13. When Klaus started work at the Cushing Facility Project, it informed Cleveland Integrity that Shane Hallman (“**Hallman**”) would be taking a short leave of absence, but that it had others on site to manage the work. However, at Yuran’s suggestion, Klaus retained John Maffeo (“**Maffeo**”), a former 20-year employee of Enbridge who at the time of his retirement was the lead electrical & implementation technician for Enbridge, to assist on the project during Hallman’s absence.

14. Despite Klaus working around other’s oversights, and retaining Maffeo at Yuran’s request, unbeknownst to Klaus, Cleveland Integrity, with the assistance and/or at the direction of Clermont Innovative, were communicating with Pilgrim Construction, building a false narrative that Klaus was incompetent. Yuran emailed and/or texted Pilgrim (Lee Windham, who was overseeing the Cushing Facility Project from Mississippi, and rarely on site) fabricating a narrative that Klaus was the reason for the delay on the Cushing Facility Project, despite the delay being out of Klaus’ control.

15. Despite Yuran as the Chief Inspector having a supervisor at Enbridge, he carried out instructions given to him by Frantz and Clermont Innovative, specifically, but not limited to those regarding Klaus’ performance.

16. In late February 2022, Cleveland Integrity emailed Pilgrim questioning Klaus' ability to procure materials, and raised concerns relating to the completion of a substation and ESB for timely inspection. Klaus was to assemble the substation and ESB (as it had done previously for Enbridge), but Enbridge was responsible for providing the materials. Cleveland Integrity's email was sent despite Enbridge having not received the substation and ESB, and at a time when Enbridge could not provide Klaus with a delivery date for same.

17. On March 8, 2022, Yuran sent a mass email and intentionally cast doubt on Klaus timely completing the Cushing Facility Project, even though Klaus was still awaiting delivery of the substation and ESB. Yuran criticized Klaus' reasons for hiring Maffeo even though Maffeo was hired at Yuran's request.

18. On March 26, 2022, Yuran sent another text message to Pilgrim and others, questioning Klaus' ability to meet the completion date (in-service date) of May 5, 2022. However, at that time, the substation had just been delivered the previous week, and the ESB just three days prior. Klaus' installation of the substation and ESB began on March 25, 2022, by no fault of Klaus.

19. Klaus' work was also delayed because Pilgrim, not Klaus, did not timely supply cable trays for Klaus to install. Regardless, Klaus diligently continued to work around the issue, doing what it could, until Pilgrim could procure the cable trays.

20. On March 29, 2022, Klaus met with Yuran to discuss his inappropriate text messages and changing the in-service-date due to lead times on materials needed to complete the Cushing Facility Project. While apologizing for the text message, Yuran refused to consider a change to the in-service date because he wanted to be the first project manager to complete a project on the original in-service date.

21. In an early April 2022 email exchange between Pilgram, Yuran, Enbridge and Frantz to Klaus, the parties were pressuring Klaus to work on a Sunday (April 10), and over the Easter holiday (April 16 and April 18) because of the “current status of the schedule, specifically the E&I scope that is potentially impacting ISD [in-service date].” Klaus was again wrongly being blamed for the purported delay in the in-service date which formed a basis for Klaus’ termination from the Cushing Facility Project.

22. In mid-April, the parties again interfered with the Klaus-Pilgrim relationship after they emailed Pilgrim that if the in-service date was pushed back on the Cushing Facility Project, Enbridge could hold Pilgrim responsible for damages resulting from Pilgrim’s breach of its contract with Enbridge. In the same email, Klaus was blamed for the delay, despite their knowledge related to the delays of the substation, ESB and installation cable trays were all outside Klaus’ Klaus.

23. Pilgrim forwarded Yuran’s email to Klaus informing Klaus that it would be responsible for any back charges incurred by Pilgrim.

24. As a result of Yuran’s interference, on May 8, 2022, Pilgrim emailed Klaus alleging Klaus was the reason for the delay at the Cushing Facility Project. When Klaus inquired about the email, Pilgrim could not answer or provide evidence explaining how Klaus was the cause of the delay at the Cushing Facility Project.

25. However, a week after the email, Pilgrim’s electricians appeared at the Cushing Facility Project. Initially, Klaus was informed that it would oversee those electricians.

26. By the end of May 2022, all communications between Cleveland Integrity, Clermont Innovative, Klaus and Pilgrim ceased. Klaus no longer received team meeting invitations from Frantz or Yuran.

27. In early June 2022, Pilgrim refused to pay Klaus' invoices for work previously performed (and invoices previously submitted). When the payments to Klaus stopped, Klaus had no other option but to pull its crews from the Cushing Facility Project.

28. At the time it pulled its crew from the Cushing Facility Project, Klaus had completed approximately 90% of its work on the \$875,000 contract, yet was only paid a total of \$477,246.66.

29. At the time Klaus removed its crews, it had paid for all materials, supplies and labor it needed for the Cushing Facility Project. Only Mulholland has made a claim for unpaid materials or services.

30. In August 2022, after Klaus removed its crews from the Cushing Facility Project, Enbridge Maintenance contacted Klaus to ground down the overhead lines so that Pilgrim would be able to tie the air switch into the overhead lines. This was an issue Klaus previously raised in early March 2022 when working on the Cushing Facility Project, but Klaus was informed it was not a specification. Klaus subsequently performed the work for Enbridge Maintenance since Pilgrim was not certified, and Klaus was promptly paid directly by Enbridge Maintenance.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT ONE – TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP (Clermont Innovative Design, LLC)

31. Klaus realleges and adopts by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 - 27, above, and further alleges as follows:

32. Klaus and Pilgrim entered the Subcontract Agreement for Klaus to perform the electrical and instrumentation scope of work for the M 202 N. Utilization and M223 Connectivity at the Cushing Facility Project, and Clermont Innovative knew, or under the circumstances reasonably should have known, about the Subcontract Agreement.

33. Clermont Innovative, specifically *but not limited to* Yuran and Frantz, intentionally interfered with the Subcontract, by unfairly spreading a false narrative about Klaus being the reason for the delay, causing Pilgrim to breach the Subcontract Agreement.

34. As a direct result of Clermont Innovative's intentional conduct, Klaus suffered damages in the form of non-payment for work performed under the Subcontract Agreement in an amount exceeding \$477,246.66.

**COUNT TWO – QUANTUM MERUIT/UNJUST ENRICHMENT
(ENBRIDGE)**

35. Klaus realleges and adopts by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 - 31, above, and further alleges as follows:

36. Klaus furnished its valuable services at the Cushing Facility Project, owned by Enbridge, with the reasonable expectation of being compensated.

37. Enbridge knowingly accepted the benefit of Klaus' services at the Cushing Facility Project.

38. The reasonable value of the service provided by Klaus totaled \$320,382.84.

39. Klaus has received no compensation for the services it provided.

40. Enbridge would be unfairly benefited by Klaus' services on the Cushing Facility Project if no compensation were paid to Klaus.

WHEREFORE, Defendant and Third-Party Plaintiff Klaus respectfully requests judgment against the third-party defendant Enbridge for \$447,300.66 in damages related to its unjust enrichment, and against defendants Cleveland Integrity, and Clermont Innovative, for damages related to the interference with its business relationship, punitive damages, and Klaus' costs expended herein for having to prosecute this third-party claim, in addition to any and all other relief for which this Court deems just and reasonable.

Respectfully submitted,

CONNER & WINTERS, LLP

s/Ryan T. Scharnell

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the above and foregoing was served on this 12th day of November 2024, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, CM/ECF, to:

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